

## Message Text

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CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07

PA-04 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 /168 R

DRAFTED BY EA/VN:JDFINNEY:BK

APPROVED BY EA:MSTEARNS

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO ALL DIPLOMATIC POSTS

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

INFO AMEMBASSY SAIGON

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 113828

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, FR, VS

SUBJECT: PRG REPRESENTATION IN FRANCE

1. ON MAY 22 THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE SELF-STYLED PRO-  
VISIONAL REVOLUTIONARY GOVERNMENT OF SOUTH VIET-NAM (PRG)  
IN PARIS ANNOUNCED THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT'S ACTION PERMITTING  
THE PRG INFORMATION OFFICE IN FRANCE TO CHANGE ITS NAME  
TO "PERMANENT MISSION." THIS CHANGE DOES NOT CONSTITUTE  
GOF RECOGNITION OF THE PRG NOR DOES IT REPRESENT A STEP  
TOWARD NORMAL RELATIONS. HOWEVER, WE CAN ANTICIPATE THAT  
HANOI, THE PRG AND THEIR ALLIES WILL SEEK TO EXPLOIT THIS  
CHANGE IN THEIR CONTINUING EFFORTS TO GAIN INTERNATIONAL  
RECOGNITION OF THE PRG INCLUDING ITS PARTICIPATION IN INTER-  
NATIONAL MEETINGS. THESE EXPLOITATION EFFORTS MAY BE MADE  
PARTICULARLY IN FRANCOPHONE COUNTRIES. THE FOLLOWING IN-  
FORMATION MAY BE USED BY POSTS IN COUNTERING ANY SUCH  
EFFORTS.

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2. AFTER THE SIGNING OF THE CEASE-FIRE AGREEMENT ON

JANUARY 27, 1973, GOF AND PRG REPRESENTATIVES BEGAN INFORMAL CONVERSATIONS REGARDING THE STATUS OF THE PRG INFORMATION OFFICE WHICH HAD BEEN OPERATING IN PARIS FOR SEVERAL YEARS. THESE CONVERSATIONS WERE BASED ON A UNIQUE DE FACTO RELATIONSHIP WHICH FRANCE AS HOST GOVERNMENT HAD ESTABLISHED WITH THE DELEGATION OF EACH OF FOUR PARTICIPANTS IN THE PARIS PEACE TALKS BEGUN IN EARLY 1968. THIS

GOF-PRG DE FACTO RELATIONSHIP HAS CONTINUED WITH INITIATION OF BILATERAL TALKS BETWEEN GVN AND PRG AT LACELLE ST. CLOUD AS PROVIDED FOR IN THE CEASE-FIRE AGREEMENT.

3. AT THE CONCLUSION OF GOF-PRG CONVERSATIONS IN MID-MAY, GOF AGREED TO A NAME CHANGE OF THE PRG INFORMATION OFFICE TO "PERMANENT MISSION" (FULL TITLE IS "MISSION PERMANENTE DU GOVERNMENT REVOLUTIONNAIRE PROVISoire DE LA REPUBLIQUE DUE SUD VIETNAM EN (REPEAT EN) FRANCE."). CHANGE OF NAME DOES NOT REPEAT NOT GRANT OR IMPLY DIPLOMATIC RECOGNITION. MEMBERS OF PRG MISSION ARE NOT CARRIED ON DIPLOMATIC LIST.

4. GOF HAS EMPHASIZED TO US THAT FRANCE RECOGNIZES ONLY "STATES" NOT GOVERNMENTS. FRANCE RECOGNIZES THE REPUBLIC OF VIET-NAM. MOREOVER FRANCE DOES NOT REPEAT NOT WISH TO SANCTION THE DIVISION OF SOUTH VIET-NAM OR TO ENCOURAGE A THIRD VIET-NAM.

5. GOF HAS POINTED OUT FURTHER TO US THAT THE SPECIAL STATUS ACCORDED THE PRG MISSION SHOULD NOT REPEAT NOT SERVE AS A PRECEDENT WHICH ANY OTHER COUNTRY SHOULD FEEL IT COULD FOLLOW SINCE NO OTHER COUNTRY HAS HAD FOUR YEARS OF SERVING AS HOST FOR THE PARIS CONFERENCE, YEARS DURING WHICH THE GOF HAS HAD DE FACTO RELATIONS WITH THE PRG AS WITH THE OTHER THREE PARTICIPANTS. BROWN

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